escaped from the palace.[15] The committee of the task force was in session with the sailors, discussing the conditions of a truce, and Krasnov thought the Cossacks would welcome my presence. I went to the committee.

Ten Cossack representatives sat on one side of a long table facing the sailors. One of the latter was a big, strikingly handsome man with broad shoulders, a tanned face, pitch-black beard, and bright, arrogant eyes. This was the notorious Dybenko, the ringleader of the Baltic fleet. The other, Tushin, was small, with an insignificant pale face. He seemed to be the brains of the pair. When I entered the room, the question of safe-conduct for the Cossacks had been settled. Now the Cossacks were demanding the release from prison of officers and students of military schools. Dybenko was furious. "These dogs are not Cossacks and are none of your business," he yelled.

"They are our business," replied the Cossack chairman. "We stood for the same thing."

"To hell with what you stood for. Think of your own hides!"

"We did not ask you for a cease-fire," exploded the Cossack. "You asked. If you wish a truce, make it fair."

Dybenko turned to his companion. "What do you think, Tushin? I would not mind turning those blackguards over to them. Why should we feed them?"

The small sailor nodded. The chairman read the clause of the agreement: "All officers and students of military schools arrested after November 5 in Petrograd will be set free."

"Now about Lenin and Trotsky," said the chairman. "They must go!"

"None of your business!" shouted Dybenko.

"Make it fair," insisted the Cossacks. "You told us that Kerensky must not be in the government until he has cleared himself of having conspired with Kornilov. We agreed. Well, weren't Lenin and Trotsky charged with being German spies? Until they clear themselves, they must not be in the government. . . ."

"Did you catch them spying?" Tushin asked angrily. "Or are you repeating the dirty slander of capitalist newspapers? Now we see what kind of birds you are."

"All we say is that they must stand public trial. If they are not spies they have nothing to fear."

The discussion went on. Finally Dybenko shouted, "These damned

[15] Krasnov pretended that he had helped Kerensky to escape. Later Kerensky accused Krasnov of intending to deliver him to the enemy. I think both versions are false. If Krasnov had intended to arrest the former Supreme Commander, he could easily have done so. On the other hand, he hardly would have thought of arranging the escape of a man for whom he had no friendly feelings.